

CITIZENS INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST (CITT)
External Affairs Committee Meeting
September 10, 2003
Metro Dade Center
111 NW Streets, 18-3

Summary of Minutes

CITT MEMBERS:

Luis Morse, Chairman
Marc Buoniconti
Miles Moss
James Reeder

OTHER PRESENT:

Bruce Libhaber, Assistant County Attorney
Xavier Hughes, Mayor's Office
Joanna Santiago, OPTM
Aurelia Vasquez, OPTM
Lisa Signh, E-Gov
Gilda Nunez-Hervis, Public Works Dept.
Susan Schreiber, MPO
Carlos Roa, MPO
Rich Marks, SmartRoute
Pat LaPlatney, SmartRoute
Ramona D. Phillips, Phillips Consulting
Keith Rooy, E-Gov
JW. Johnson, TW U291
Clinton Forbes, MDT
Patrice Rosemond, OPTM
Patricia David, OPTM
Alina Philipp, OPTM
Virginia Diaz, OPTM

ROLL CALL

With a quorum being present, Luis Morse, Chairman, called the meeting of the External Affairs Committee to order at 2:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morse requested for a motion to approve the minutes of July 1, 2003. Mr. Moss move to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Reeder and carried without dissent.

CITIZEN'S REMARKS

None

LEGISLATIVE/INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Virginia Diaz, Special Assistant to the Director OPTM, provided the members with an update of the legislative report. She indicated that she asked Mr. Dennis Vierra, Miami-Dade Transportation lobbyist to update the committee via conference call.

Mr. Vierra discussed the Reauthorization Request TEA 21. He stated that it appears that the Senate has no consensus on financing a 6-year bill. The Republican House leadership is also opposed to tax increases due to several changes in TEA 21, resulting in funding for the federal highways and transit programs to cease as of September 30, 2003, unless there is an extender bill. This strategy basically forces timely congressional actions on future bills specifically provisions in TEA 21 that prohibits any expenditure of any monies in the pipeline after September 30. So on the broad scale that means that all highway and transit grants to the state and to recipients such as Miami Dade County will cease.

A copy of the "New Start" Funding Authorization Scenarios" illustrating funding distribution and projects were distributed to the members. The report exhibited 130 projects with a total cost of \$24 billion however, Mr. Vierra stated that the total should be approximately \$82 - \$100 billion. He further discussed, the House Report 108-243 stating the immediate concern is the inclusion for the next budget and emphasized the value of getting the projects established on an annual appropriations cycle.

Mr. Moss asked how could the CITT members provide support? Mr. Vierra stressed the importance of taking immediate steps to energize the congressional delegation. Only a few states will get projects funded and the majority will not because in the last 5 to 6 years the New Start projects have become very political due to the demand for funding. It is vital that each locality have its congressional delegation support for the project and aggressively pursue funding.

Mr. Morse asked Mr. Vierra to update the committee on the status of the North Corridor and East/West Corridor. Mr. Vierra responded that it is highly unlikely that either project will receive any funding from either the Senate or House Bills. For that reason, he stressed the importance of obtaining congressional support.

Ms. Diaz noted that Mr. Vierra would be attending the Metropolitan Planning Organization presentation scheduled for the end of September and that CITT members are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Morse expressed concern on the 1998 East West Corridor report. In order to be considered for federal funding a current study is necessary. He requested that the committee recommend to the Trust to approve a resolution to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to authorize another study of the East/West Corridor. This new report would include a total re-evaluation of the East/West Corridor taking into consideration new and future infrastructure.

Mr. Buonoconti asked is Miami Beach going to be contributing any monies towards that study or would the complete study be paid by surtax proceeds?

Mr. Morse stated that he would not include both studies in the same resolution.

Ms. Diaz said she could prepare an individual resolution for each study.

Mr. Bunoniconiti asked if the original study included the Baylink.

Ms. Diaz replied, that the original study examined the area from the turnpike to Miami Beach. However, the minimum operative segment selected was from the Palmetto to the Port of Miami.

Mr. Moss made a motion requesting the MPO to issue a re-evaluation of the two studies 1) Palmetto to the Port of Miami and 2) the Turnpike to Miami Beach.

Ms. Diaz discussed the importance of the MPO Board in establishing the priorities of the corridors, especially since the County is competing for limited transportation funds with other states.

Mr. Buoniconiti stated that based on community meetings the North Corridor is priority number 1. Ms. Diaz informed members that the community had voiced its preference for the 1999 alignment along the 27th Avenue that would zigzag through the community.

Ms. Diaz stated that she would prepare and present two separate resolutions for the Trust approval at the next full CITT meeting.

Motion:

Mr. Moss made a motion to prepare a resolution recommending to the full CITT that either separate or joint resolutions be prepared requesting the MPO to re-evaluate the East/West Corridor segments which include Palmetto to the Port of Miami and from the Palmetto to the Turnpike in order to comply with the five year federal criteria standards. Mr. Morse asked for approval of the resolution, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Diaz updated the members on the current State Legislative Initiatives (distributed), which includes:

- Support legislation that would provide additional revenues for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program;
- Support legislation that would provide additional funds for the Medicaid Transportation Program;
- Support legislative language amending SB 686, enabling the Board of County Commissioners from each county served by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to levy an annual license tax in the amount of \$2 for the registration or renewal of each vehicle. The annual license tax shall take effect in any county served by the authority upon approval of its BCC;
- Support language modification to Chapter 316 and Chapter 322.61 to comply with new federal legislation that requires states to disqualify individuals convicted of "serious" traffic violations from being issued a Commercial Drive License.

Mr. Morse asked to what the gas tax generated last year and what percentage did Dade County receive.

Mr. Libhaber, Assistant County Attorney noted that Commissioner Bruno Barreiro was concerned that the maintenance of effort on the Local Option Gas Tax would result in deficits in the year

2020. Therefore, he introduced an ordinance that has been approved by the BCC directing that in fiscal year 2002-2003 and subsequent fiscal years the county provide MDT and OPTM with at least the same proportionate share of capital improvement local option gas tax revenue and the same level of in-kind support provided to MDT during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002. At the last Budget and Finance Committee, Alfredo Gonzalez from Commissioner Barreiro's office asked that the resolution be distributed to the CITT members.

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Diaz introduced Mr. Richard Marks, CEO Westwood One Company. Mr. Marks distributed a copy of his power-point presentation and stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) requested this traffic study. The corporation was established in 1988 and manages information and Operations center for Department of Transportation throughout the country. As well as provides local traffic content to wireless, Internet, in-vehicle navigation systems and voice portal. Westwood One provides local content to radio and TV Stations and serves more than 7,500 radio stations in 102 cities, over 100 million listeners daily. MPO endorsed the concept of traffic-based programming with news, transportation information; call in format with multi-lingual, and multi-cultural talent. 511 is a wireless landline that provides traffic and travel information around the clock. South Florida is one of the top radio markets in the country. The first phase of the program would cost \$908.6 thousand.

Mr. Moss asked if Mr. Marks is requesting funding from the CITT? Mr. Marks responded that he is only seeking support. DOT has been very supportive of the program as well as CTAC. It is his intention to make as many presentations throughout South Florida because they are doing a core county program and transit program with FDOT.

Mr. Moss requested a resolution recommending the full CITT to request the MPO to the FDOT to consider funding for the program.

Mr. Morse stated that at the last External Affairs meeting, the members requested information regarding dedicated radio traffic reporting. A resolution may implicate the CITT in the future.

WEBSITE

Ms. Aurelia Vasquez, OPTM Chief Information Officer and Lisa Sign, E-GOV provided the members with a power point presentation which illustrated the update version of the website www.trafficrelief.com. She informed the members that all CITT information has been added such as, meetings dates, member information and minutes. The public will have updated information pertaining to all updated PTP and CITT.

STATUS OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Ms. Diaz distributed and briefly updated the members on the Interlocal agreements that have been received and have been given its share of the surtax proceeds.

Mr. Morse asked if all the municipalities have submitted a list of projects? Mr. Libhaber responded that not all of them have, however this being the first year and many municipalities did not receive the agreement in time to provide the list. It was decided that each municipality would need to submit a list of projects or future check may be withheld. To date, 30 agreements have been signed and a few have submitted the list of projects, such as Hialeah, and Coral Gables.

Mr. Morse asked staff to contact each municipality that have not submitted a list of projects and advise them that next year the deadline for project submission will be June 30.

Mr. Libhaber indicated that next year all municipalities will need to submit a list of projects by June 30, 2004 and every year subsequent to June 30, 2004.

Mr. Morse made a motion for OPTM staff informally call each municipality to obtain a date when to expect submission of its list of projects that will be using half-penny surtax proceeds and present its findings to the full CITT. The CITT at the point can set a deadline that will allow all municipalities to comply. Mr. Reeder seconded the motion, and the motion was carried without dissent.

Mr. Buonoconti suggested having a press conference presenting municipalities with a check. He felt this would be a good opportunity to have a check presentation to the different municipalities and invite the media and inform the citizens on the progress of the PTP. Ms Diaz said that she would need to meet with the Mayor's office and the Department of Communications to follow proper protocol and will update the committee at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Diaz asked for approval to forward to the full CITT a letter addressed to Congressman Lospinski or the interim chairman's signature and a resolution (distributed).

Resolution by the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) supporting the PTP, which includes the building of transit lines to West Dade, Kendall, Florida City, Miami Beach, and North Dade.

A motion to approve the letter and resolution was made by Mr. Buonoconti, seconded by Mr. Reeder and carried without dissent.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ms. Diaz announced that November 5, 2003 would mark the first anniversary since the election. There are tentative plans of hosting a transportation summit and a press conference will be held highlighting the accomplishments made throughout the year.

NEXT MEETING

The next CITT External Affairs meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

AJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.